

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KIGALI 00774 222224Z
ACTION AF-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
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TAGS: ECIN, PEPR, SPOP, RW, TZ
SUBJECT: TANZANIA PRESIDENT NYERERE PAYS THREE-DAY VISIT

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 1963; BUJUMBURA 477

1. SUMMARY: NYERERE VISIT MAY 11-13 MARKED BY
FULL SCHEDULE AND EXCELLENT ATMOSPHERE. IN SELECTION
OF ACTIVITIES AND SUBJECTS FOR PUBLIC STATEMENTS,
NYERERE PLACED EMPHASIS ON DEEPENING BILATERAL AND
REGIONAL TIES. HABYARIMANA AGREED, BUT ALSO RAISED
LARGER AFRICA AND GLOBAL ISSUES. FRIENDLY RELATIONS
BETWEEN RWANDA AND TANZANIA WERE LAUDED, AND PRESI-
DENTS FOUND STRIKINGLY MUCH IN COMMON BETWEEN THEIR
RESPECTIVE POLITICAL MOVEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. TANZANIA PRESIDENT PAID THREE-DAY GOOD NEIGHBOR
VISIT TO RWANDA MAY 11-13, HIS SECOND OFFICIAL VISIT
IN NINE MONTHS. VISIT CONSISTED OF MIXTURE OF TRAVEL, PUBLIC
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PAGE 02 KIGALI 00774 222224Z

APPEARANCES AND BILATERAL TALKS. TRAVEL ITINERARY INCLUDED
PEAT EXTRACTION SITE, A PYRETHRUM FLOWER DRYING FACILITY IN
RUHENGARI PREFECTURE, AND ATTENDANCE AT MRND MASS RALLY IN HIS
HONOR AT RUHENGARI STADIUM. BACK IN KIGALI, NYERERE HOSTS
TOOK HIM TO VISIT RWANDA'S SHOWPIECE UMUGANDA (COMMUNAL
LABOR) SITE, THE KANOMBE COFFEE FIELDS, WHICH ARE WORKED BY
GOR OFFICIALS. NYERERE ALSO VISITED RWANDA'S BANANA WINE DISTILLERY.

3. NYERERE BROUGHT MESSAGE LAUDING VIRTUES OF BILATERAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION. IN CONTRAST TO HIS HOST, DURING TOAST AT MAY 11 STATE DINNER NYERERE HARDLY MENTIONED GLOBAL AND CONTINENTAL POLITICAL OR SECURITY ISSUES. INSTEAD, HE TOLD LISTENERS THAT RWANDA AND TANZANIA HAVE DEVELOPED EXPERTISE OVER PAST YEARS WHICH THEY SHOULD SHARE WITH ONE ANOTHER; E.B., RWANDA COULD TEACH TANZANIA ABOUT EDUCATION REFORM, WHILE TANZANIA COULD SHARE ITS EXPERIENCE IN LAUNCHING A SOCIALIST SOCIETY.

NYERERE ENCOURAGED AFRICAN NATIONS TO CREATE A PRACTICAL NETWORK OF BILATERAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION: "RWANDA WORKS WITH ZAIRE IN SOME AREAS AND WITH TANZANIA IN OTHERS -- AND TANZANIA WILL DO THE SAME WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. THROUGH THESE BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS, EACH OF US WILL BE A BRIDGE FOR INTRA-AFRICAN COOPERATION." REFERRING TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AKAGERA RIVER BASIN--THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION OF RWANDA, TANZANIA AND BURUNDI--NYERERE NOTED THAT "NONE OF US CAN EVER REALIZE ITS ECONOMIC POWER UNLESS WE WORK TOGETHER TO EXPLOIT REGIONAL RESOURCES."

4. NYERERE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SIMILARITIES OF MRND, RWANDA'S EMBRYONIC CIVIC ACTION/POLITICAL MOVEMENT, TO HIS CCM (REVOLUTIONARY) PARTY. FINAL COMMUNIQUE SHOWS TWO PRESIDENTS TAKING SATISFACTION IN "CONVERGENCE OF BROAD POLICY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KIGALI 00774 222224Z

ORIENTATIONS" OF TWO ORGANIZATIONS, SPECIFICALLY, EMPHASIS ON SELF-RELIANCE, MOBILIZATION, NON-ALIGNMENT, PEACE, NATIONAL UNITY, DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL CULTURE, AND "OPTIONS FAVORING THE EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY."

THEY CALLED FOR JOINT EFFORT TO OBTAIN FINANCING FOR:

- PAVING FOR RUSUMO-ISAKA ROAD.
- CONSTRUCTION WAREHOUSES/TRAIN STATION AT ISAKA.
- LAYING RAILROAD LINKING TWO COUNTRIES.
- MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION OF DAR ES SALAAM PORT.

COUNTRIES PLEDGED COOPERATION ON FUTURE RWANDAN EMIGRATION TO TANZANIA. IN COURSE OF MAY 13 AIRPORT INTERVIEW, NYERERE DECLARED THAT "WE COULD WELCOME EVEN 500,000 RWANDANS AT ONCE THANKS TO TANZANIA'S UNOCCUPIED SPACES. THOSE THAT COME WILL BE REGROUPED INTO UJAMAA VILLAGES LIKE OTHER TANZANIANS."

5. ALTHOUGH OFFICIALS COMMUNIQUE DECLARED "TOTAL AGREEMENT ON ALL MAJOR PROBLEMS OF THE DAY," SOME DIFFERENCES IN EMPHASIS WERE EVIDENT. FOR EXAMPLE, ON NAMIBIA HABYARIMANA SAID DURING MAY 11 DINNER TOAST THAT EFFORTS OF FIVE WESTERN

POWERS WOULD BE "CROWNED WITH SUCCESS," CALLING SWAPO
"LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF NAMIBIAN PEOPLE." JOINT
COMMUNIQUE WENT BEYOND THAT, STATING THAT NAMIBIA INCLUDING WALVIS
BAY IS "UNDER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UN IN COLLABORATION
WITH SWAPO--THE ONLY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE."
HABYARIMANA IN HIS TOAST OBLIQUELY CRITICIZED SOMALIA'S
ACTIONS IN THE HORN AND MOROCCO/ALGERIA IN THE SPANISH SAHARA.
SEVERAL TIMES HE REITERATED IMPORTANCE OF RESPECT FOR NATIONAL
BOUNDARIES, ADDING AT ONE POINT HIS CONDEMNATION OF ARMED
INTERVENTION FROM OUTSIDE AFRICA. HE ALSO CRITICIZED ISRAEL'S
"POLICY OF ZIONISM WHICH LIKE APARTHEID OPPRESSES OTHER
PEOPLES." HOWEVER, NONE OF THESE ISSUES WERE SPECIFICALLY
MENTIONED IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE.

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PAGE 04 KIGALI 00774 222224Z

6. HABYARIMANA ACCEPTED "WITH JOY" NYERERE'S INVITATION TO
PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO TANZANIA.

FREQUENCY AND HIGH LEVEL OF BILATERAL CONTACTS UNDERSCORES
RECENT EVOLUTION OF CLOSE TIES BETWEEN TWO NATIONS. ALSO SIGN THAT
RWANDA LESS LOCKED INTO FRANCOPHONE ORIENTATION AND OPENING UP TO
POTENTIAL ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES OFFERED BY CLOSER RELATIONS
TO HER ANGLOPHONE NEIGHBOR. THIS FRIENDLINESS AND EXPLORATION
OF POSSIBILITIES FOR COORDINATION OF PROGRAMS AND POLICIES
IS IMPRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT FOLLOWING SEVERAL YEARS OF COOL
RELATIONS AFTER 1973 ACCESSION TO POWER OF HABYARIMANA. WILLINGNESS
OF THESE NATIONAL LEADERS TO ASSOCIATE THEIR RESPECTIVE
POLITICAL MOVEMENTS' PHILOSOPHIES IS PARTICULARLY
STRIKING NEW DEVELOPMENT FOR TWO REASONS:

--RWANDA CUSTOMARILY TAKES CUE FROM ZAIRE ON MATTERS OF
POLITICAL STRUCTURE, AND
--UNTIL QUITE RECENTLY, MRND LEADERSHIP INSISTED THAT
MOVEMENT WAS NOT POLITICAL PARTY BUT SOMETHING HIGHER--
THE ORGAN THROUGH WHICH THE NATIONAL WILL IS EXPRESSED.
THUS THEY RESISTED COMPARISON WITH MORE CONVENTIONALLY CONCEIVED
POLITICAL PARTIES.
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